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Investigation into cases of house-breaking in Madras City.

*280 Q.—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many cases of house-breaking and theft of properties of the value of Rs. 500 and above have occurred in the City of Madras during the last two years;

(b) how many of these ended in conviction and in how many property was recovered and of what amount;

(c) whether any warning has been recently given by the Police to the public in regard to these frequent thefts and house-breakings; and

(d) whether a similar warning has been given to the Police and what special steps the Police are taking to protect the public against thefts?

A.—(a) Eleven cases in 1929 and twenty-one in 1930.

(b) Three of the 1929 and four of the 1930 cases ended in conviction. Five of the 1930 cases are still under investigation. So far property worth Rs. 2,162 and Rs. 3,300 involved in four 1929 cases and four 1930 cases respectively has been recovered. More may yet be recovered, e.g., property involved in one of the 1929 cases has just been recovered.

(c) Yes; this was given with the special object of encouraging the public to telephone promptly about the presence of suspicious persons.

(d) The Police do not require such warning. When the incidence of crime makes special steps necessary, extra men are put on duty to watch the areas affected, to arrest suspicious persons found lurking at night, to visit the haunts of criminals and to trace suspicious characters and lost property. Investigation work is co-ordinated so that all connected criminal activities are, as far as possible, dealt with by the same investigating officer or officers.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state the value of the property registered as stolen?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state the number of burglary cases reported in the Central Crimes Branch from the 1st December to date?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" Is the hon. the Home Member aware that the number of cases of burglary reported to the Central Crimes Station amounts to nearly a hundred and none of them has as yet been detected?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask the hon. Member as to the special reason for the cases of undetected burglary in the City?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" As I said before, I shall draw the attention of the authorities."

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Mr. V. T. ARASU :—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware that on account of these frequent burglaries, a great panic prevails in the City of Madras, particularly amongst the Europeans, whose womenfolk are said to be spending sleepless nights?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Is the hon. Member aware that certain articles stolen from Mr. Sydney Smith were mysteriously restored to him?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I do not know."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware that the detection is becoming more difficult because of the failure of the new scheme that has been launched?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I do not think it is so."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—"Is the hon. the Home Member aware of the wide-spread feeling among the public in the City that on account of the division of labour that has been effected in the City Police Force in the year 1928, the efficiency of the Police force has gone down considerably, and that therefore the system should be scrapped?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that complaints have been made to the effect that the increase and non-detection of cases of burglary is due to some Police people themselves being privy to the burglaries?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I refuse to answer that question."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether he is prepared to appoint a committee to enquire into and report whether this division of labour has been conducive to effective and efficient detection of crimes?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No, Sir."

Alleged beating of Mr. Bashyam and others in Godown Street.

* 280-A Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state in detail the events that led to the beating of Mr. K. Bashyam, an Advocate, and Mr. V. A. Sundaram and other picketers in the Godown Street, in the Madras City, on 28th January 1931?

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, in reply to this short-notice question, may I have your permission to make the following statement.